Land under irrigation

2517. SHRI DRUPAQ BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the area of cultivable land brought under irrigation, category-wise;

(b) what is the figure of non-irrigated arable land; and

(c) what policy has been adopted to bring at least half of the total arable land under irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1997-98 (latest), the total cultivable area in the country is 183.19 million hectare of which Net Irrigated Area (NIA) is 54.56 million hectare and unirrigatcd area is 128.63 million hectare. The break up of NIA as per sources of irrigation is as follows:

(Figures arc in million hectare)

Canals	Tanks	Tube Wells	Other Wells	Other Sources	Total
17.09	3.10	18.43	12.45	3.49	54.56

As irrigation is a State subject under Entry 17 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, all irrigation schemes are conceived, planned, investigated and executed by the States from their own plan resources and according to their own priorities. The National Water Policy adopted by the National Water Resources Council on 1st April, 2002 has following provisions to maximize irrigated land in the country:

(1) Irrigation planning cither in an individual project or in a basin as a whole should taken into account the irrigability of land, cost-effective irrigation options possible from all available sources of water and appropriate irrigation techniques for optimizing water use efficiency.

(2) Concerted efforts should be made to ensure that irrigation potential created is fully utilised. For this purpose, the command area development approach should be adopted in all irrigation projects.

(3) Irrigation being the largest consumer of fresh water, the aim should be to get optimal productivity per unit of water. Scientific water management, farm practices and sprinkler and drip system of irrigation should be adopted wherever feasible.

(4) The resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by measures for maximizing retention, eliminating pollution of minimizing losses. For this, measures like selective linings in the conveyance system, modernization and rehabilitation of existing system including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like matching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible.

(5) Non-conventional methods for utilisation of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge of ground water and desalination of brackish or sea water as well as traditional water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting need to be practiced to further increase the utilizablc water resources.

Preservation of tanks in Karnataka

2518. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tanks arc vanishing in Karnataka due to encroachment, siltation and expiration of cities;

(b) if so, the details of tanks vanished during the last three years in the State; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to preserve the tanks and the amount required for preservation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes. Sir. Since irrigation is a State